LESSON 3

In this lesson, we learn the following:

#(1) The passive voice (الفِعْلُ الـمَبْـنِيُّ لِلْمَجْهُول) Here is an example of the passive voice in English : 'The soldier killed the spy' ---- 'The spy was killed'. In the passive voice the subject is omitted, and the object takes the place of the subject. Let us see how to express the same idea in Arabic :

Active voice (الفِعْلُ المَبْـنِيُّ للمَعْلُوم) : قَتَلَ الجُنْدِيُّ الجاسُوسَ.

Passive voice (الفِعْلُ المَبْـنِيُّ للمجْهُـول) : قُـتِـلَ الجاسُوسُ. Note that in the passive voice the *fâ'il* (الجُنديُّ) has been omitted, and the *maf'ûl bihi* has taken its place, and has become *marfû'*. It is now called نائبُ الفاعِلِ.

In English we may say, 'the spy was killed' or 'the spy was killed *by the soldier*'. The second construction is *not possible* in Arabic.

The original verb undergoes certain changes when it is converted to passive voice. In the *mâḏî*, the first radical has *ḏammah* and the second has *kasrah*. In the *muḏâri'*, the letter of the *muḏâra'ah*[1] has *ḏammah*, and the second radical has *fatḫah*, e.g.,

Mâḏî : قَـتَـلَ 'he killed' : قُـتِـلَ 'he was killed' (qatala : q**uti**la).

If the second radical originally has *kasrah*, it remain, e.g., شَرِبَ 'he drank' : شُرِبَ 'it was drunk'; سَمِعَ 'he heard' : سُمِعَ 'he/it was heard'.

Muḏâri' : يَـقْـتُـلُ 'he kills' : يُـقْـتَـلُ 'he is killed' (yaqtulu : y**u**qt**a**lu).

If the second radical originally has *fatḫah*, it remain, e.g., يَفْـتَـحُ 'he opens': يُفْـتَـحُ 'it is opened' ; يَقْـرَأُ 'he reads' : يُقْـرَأُ 'it is read'.

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1 The letters(أ، ت، ي، ن) which are prefixed to the *muḏâri'*, as in : يكتب، تكتب، أكتب، نكتب. are called "letters of *muḏâra'ah*". These have been combined to form the word أَتَـيْـنَ (they came).

You know that if *wâw* is the first radical, it is omitted in the *mudâri'* (See Book Two, Lesson 26). But is restored in the passive voice, e.g., يَجِدُ 'he finds' : يُوجَدُ 'he/it is found' ; يَلِدُ 'he bears (a child)' : يُولَدُ 'he is born'.

Here are some examples of the passive voice :

خُلِقَ الإنسانُ من طين 'Man was created from clay.'

في أيِّ عامٍ وُلِدْتَ؟ 'In which year were you born?'

يُقْتَلُ آلافٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ في الحُرُوب 'Thousands of people are killed in wars.'

لا يُلْدَغُ المُؤْمِنُ مِنْ جُحْرٍ واحدٍ مَرَّتَيْن 'A believer is not bitten (by a snake) from the same hole twice' (hadîth), i.e., does not repeat the same mistake.

لايُوجَدُ هذا الكتابُ في المَكْتَبات 'This book is not found in the bookshops'.

﴿لَمْ يَلِدْ ولَمْ يُولَدْ﴾ 'He neither begot, nor was he begotten' (Qur'an, 112:3).

If the نائبُ الفاعل is feminine, the verb should also be feminine, e.g.,

عَمَّ سُئِلَتْ آمنةُ؟ 'What was Aminah asked about?'

تُقْرَأُ سورةُ الفاتحة في كلِّ ركْعة 'Sûrat al-Fatihah is read in every *rak'ah.*'

If the مفعولٌ به is a pronoun, its corresponding *raf* '-form is used as explained in Ex 7 in the main Book. E.g.,

قَتَلَهُمُ المُجرمُونَ 'The criminal killed them'. → قُتِلُوا 'They were killed'.

سَأَلَنِي المديرُ 'The headmaster asked me'. → سُئِلْتُ 'I was asked'.

#(2) وُلِدْتُ عامَ سَبْعَةٍ وسِتِّينَ وتِسْعِمائةٍ وألْفٍ للْمِيلاد 'I was born in the year 1967 C.E.'[1] Here the word عامَ is *mansûb* because it is مفعولٌ فيه, i.e., a noun denoting the time of action (adverb). It does not have the *tanwîn* becase it is *mudâf*. Here are some more examples :

سَأَدْرُسُ اللغةَ الفرنسيَّةَ العامَ القادمَ إنْ شاءَ اللهُ 'I will study French next year.'

1 "C.E" stands for "Christian Era". We do not use A.D as it stands for "Anno Domini" in latin which means "in the year of (our) Lord"

كُنتُ في مكّةَ يَوْمَ الجُمُعة 'I was in Makkah on Friday.'

أينَ تذهبونَ هذا المَساءَ؟ 'Where are you going this evening?'

#(3) Certain proper names have ال (al-) like الحَسَنُ، الحُسَيْنُ، الزُّبَيْرُ. When the particle يا is used with them, ال is dropped, e.g., يا حَسَنُ (not : يا الحَسَنُ).

#(4) هِنْدِيٌّ means 'Indian'. This is formed from الهِنْدُ by adding يّ (-**iyy**-un) at the end. This process is called *nasab* (النَّسَبُ), and the noun after the addition of this يّ is called *mansûb* (المَنْسُوب)1.

Note that certain nouns have irregular *mansûb* forms, e.g., أَخَوِيٌّ (brotherly) from أَخٌ --- أَبَوِيّ (fatherly) from أَبٌ --- نَبَوِيٌّ (prophetic) from نَبِيٌّ.

#(5) أُخَرُ (ukhar-u) is the plural of أُخْرَى. It is a diptote. The plural of the masculine آخَرُ is آخَرُونَ. Here are some examples :

غابَ اليَوْمَ بلالٌ وطالبٌ آخَرُ 'Bilal and another **student** were absent today.'

غابَ اليومَ بلالٌ وطُلاّبٌ آخَرُون 'Bilal and other **students** were absent today.'

غابتْ زَيْنَبُ وطالبةٌ أُخْرَى 'Zainab and another **female student** were absent.'

غابتْ زينبُ وطالباتٌ أُخَرُ 'Zainab and other **female students** were absent.'

In the Qur'an (2: 184): فَمَنْ كانَ منْكُمْ مَرِيضاً أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ

'But whoever of you is sick or is on a journey (fasts the same) number of other days'. As أيّام is an irrational noun the singular أُخْرَى can agso be used with it, e.g., الفَنادقُ غاليةٌ هذه الأيّامَ، ولكنّها رَخيصةٌ في أيّامٍ أُخْرَى 'The hotels are expensive these days, but they are cheap on other days.'

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1 Not to be confused with *mansûb* (مَنْصُوب) which is with the letter ص.

#(6) صَلَّـــى 'he offered _salâh_'. The _mudâri_ ' is يُصَلِّي, and the _amr_ is صَلِّ. The expression صَلَّى بِـنَــا means 'he led us in _salâh_', i.e., he was our imâm. So صَلِّ بِـنَـا means 'lead us in _salâh_ as the imâm'.

#(7) إمَّا ... وإمَّا means 'either ... or', e.g., الاسْمُ إمَّا مُذكَّرٌ وإمَّا مُؤنَّثٌ 'A noun is either masculine or feminine'. إمَّا تَزُورُني وإمَّا أزُورُكَ 'Either you visit me or I visit you.'

#(8) For the _i'râb_ of ثلاثُمائةٍ through تسعُمائةٍ see Key to Book Two, L 24(g).

#(9) اليَهُود is a generic plural noun (اسْمُ الجِنْسِ الجَمْعِيُّ). Generic plural nouns are of two kinds :
a) those which make their singular with يّ (**iyy**-un), e.g., عَرَبٌ 'Arabs': عَرَبِيٌّ 'an Arab' ; تُــرْكٌ 'Turks' : تُرْكِيٌّ 'a Turk' ; إنْكليزٌ 'Englishmen' : إنكليزِيٌّ 'an Englishman'. Note that this يّ is not the _yâ'_ of _nasab_ which we have just learnt in #(4).
b) those which make their singular with _tâ' marbûtah_ (ة), e.g., تُفّاحٌ 'apples' : تُفّاحةٌ 'an apple'; شَجَرٌ 'trees' : شَجَرَةٌ 'a tree' ; سَمَكٌ 'fish' : سَمَكَةٌ 'a fish'.
To understand the use of the singular and the plural, consider the following examples : If the doctor asks you what fruit you like, you say, أُحِبُّ المَوزَ 'I like bananas.' And if he askes you how many you eat after lunch, you say, آكُلُ مَوزَةً 'I eat one banana'.
In the same way you say, أُحِبُّ العَرَبَ لأنَّ النبيَّ صلّى الله عليه وسلم عَرَبِيٌّ 'I love the Arabs because the Prophet was an Arab.'
Note that the dual is formed from this singular form, e.g., عَرَبِـيَّـــان 'two Arabs' (not عَرَبَانِ); مَوْزَتانِ 'two bananas' (not مَوْزانِ).

✍Exercises

1) Answer the following questions.

2) Underline the نائب الفاعل in the following sentences.

4) Change the following verbs in the *mâdî* to passive form.

5) Change the following verbs in the *mudâri'* to passive form.

6) Read the examples, and then change the following sentences to passive voice.

7) Learn how to change the sentence to passive voice when the object (مفـــعولٌ به) is a pronoun.

8) Point out the نائبُ الفاعِل in the following sentences.

9) Change the following sentences to passive voice.

10) Write down all the sentences in the passive voice occuring in the lesson, and point out the نائبُ الفاعِل in each of them.

11) Oral exercise : The teacher asks every sudent في أيِّ عامٍ وُلِدْتَ؟ ('In which year were you born?'), and the student replies saying , وُلِدتُ عامَ ... لِلْهِجْرَةِ/ لِلْمِيلادِ[1] (commencing the date with the smaller number).

12) Use يا before the following proper name.

13) Write the *mansûb* form of each of the following nouns.

14)Point out all the *mansûb* forms occuring in the main lesson.

[1] The word وُلِدْتُ is pronounced : وُلِــتُّ with the assimilation of د in ت.

17) Learn صَلَّى 'he offered *s̲alâh*'.

18) Learn the names of the Arabic months.

19) Learn the use of إمّا ... وإمّا 'either ... or'.

20) What does الحَرْبُ العالَمِيَّةُ الأُولَــى / الثَّانيــة mean? Is الحَرْبُ masculine or feminine? How did you find out its gender?

21) Write the *mud̲âri'* of each of these verbs.

22) Write the plural of each of these nouns.

23) Use each of the following words in a sentence.

24) Learn the *i'râb* of ثلاثُمائــة through تِسْعُمائة, then read these numbers correctly in the following sentences.

25) Learn the generic plural nouns.